

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distributed on request
BP/PROJECTS/7523

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT IN INDIANA UNIVERSITY
(INT/93/201) - Sustainable Agriculture Networking
and Extension Programme (SANE)

Date of approval by the AC: ^{1/}	20 October 1993	GO
Expected duration:	18 months	
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	\$1 500 000	Source of funds: SPR
Total UNDP budget:	\$1 500 000	

Project background

Global agricultural production has increased spectacularly over the last 40 years. Food supplies on average have risen faster than population in every region except for Africa; yet there are more undernourished now than in 1950. At least 750 million people have less than the minimum daily nutritional requirements satisfied. Quantitative success in agriculture can be explained with high yielding crop varieties, breeding in the area of animal production and the intensive use of inorganic fertilizer pesticides and machinery. Modernization, foremost in industrialized countries, has led to restructuring within rural communities and reduction of crop diversity towards monocultures. Agriculture in North America, Europe and in very few developing nations has become a business operation where the food industry, the markets and to a lesser degree the consumer signal the farmer what to produce. Economics of scale and subsidies have produced surpluses of food with distorting effects on international markets and economies of developing countries, not to speak of the dehumanizing of the traditional peasant culture. High performance has been paid for at the price of considerable environmental stress and pollution which only gradually surfaces with its full consequences showing a health conditions and imposing lasting physical damage to soils, water, vegetation and living organisms.

The situation in the South, though interdependent through technology transfer and training programmes, is fundamentally different from that in the North. Farmers and herdsmen often do not own land, hardly have access to external inputs and except for their traditional knowledge are seldom familiar with outside technological developments meaningful to their location-specific situation. Their dilemma can indeed be seen in the confusion and apathy brought about by external research/extension messages which do not take at all into consideration the severe resources constraints at the grass root level. Without any doubt intensification of agriculture in developing countries needs to work within the strict limits of the community-based capabilities and inputs. It will be important to enhance self-confidence, initiative and hope with the people actually working the soil through comprehensive understanding of organic systems. Indigenous knowledge, crop rotation and nitrogen fixation, integrated pest management, conservation and agro forestry, mixed livestock and crop systems, adapted, intermediate and energy-conscious mechanization, are

^{1/} This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

but a few facets of post-modern agriculture. External inputs such as imported seeds, chemical fertilizer, bio-degradable pesticides and machines should be carefully considered and only where affordable and available at full-cost-covering prices.

Given this scenario and the evaluation of many years of technical cooperation, UNDP has elaborated a strategic approach for future investments in food production and agriculture which will be based on agro-ecological considerations and a central concern for all human development issues as embedded in its major thematic foci. The proposed SANE initiative will facilitate South-South linkages and consistency of application of the new strategy in mainstream agricultural programmes and projects funded by the Organization.

Description of project

The SANE programme intends to utilize and share the experience of CLADES (Latin American Consortium on Agro-Ecology and Development) which has successfully provided a novel institutional arrangement for NGOs in Latin America to foster more in-depth development of agro-ecology and its practical application in rural development. Also, it seeks to increase horizontal linkages and self-help among farmers and local institutions and thus to decrease dependence on higher level institutions. As a model of farmer-to-farmer technological empowerment, the programme will be informal, non-hierarchical, decentralized, interdependent, adaptable and transferable. The immediate objectives of the programme are to: (a) consult and bring together future regional partner NGOs and other existing organizations and programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America to share experiences and informational resources to express their needs and priorities, and to seek their advice on emphasis, strategy and scope of the proposed programme, as well as suggestions about working linkages and collaborative activities; (b) demonstrate in nine (9) countries (3 each in Africa, Asia and Latin America) local solutions to agricultural problems, to strengthen institutional capacities and collaboration and to train a critical mass of technicians and farmers in order to develop and disseminate agroecological technologies for the sustainable management of small farming systems; (c) establish networking between NGOs composed of CLADES in Latin America and one African Cluster and one Asian cluster to widely share information, resources and expertise in order to mobilize and enable local institutions and farmers to rapidly adopt sustainable agriculture; and (d) establish mechanisms for effective cooperation, consultation and coordination among the NGO network and other UNDP initiatives (FARM, Africa, 2000, SDN, etc.) and FAO, IARCs, local and international universities and national ministries in order to apply integrated efforts using each group's comparative advantages into concrete actions at the local level.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one international coordinator and nine NGO-based coordinators, international and national resource persons, technical advisers and collaborators; short courses, workshops and seminars, coordination meetings, internships, study tours, training materials and information resources; communication equipment, photocopying, office materials, educational and bibliographical materials; and miscellaneous costs including secretarial and translation services, editorial and production services, printing, photocopying and communication, office supplies and mailing.

Financial data

	\$
Personnel	466 800
Training	978 200
Equipment	35 000
Miscellaneous	20 000
Total	<u>1 500 000</u>